

HS/HC 850

Item 27

Xerox copies of Diefenbaker's remarks during debate  
in Canadian House of Commons, 22 and 23 Oct 62

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ound-Muskoka): ess my apologies i Deer for pre- answer to his time that if the be dealt with as i not have any wanted to make look as if I will

One thing I should like to mention in the minute which remains before six o'clock is this. In 1960 the standing committee on privileges and elections considered the very subject we are now discussing, and at that time it was felt that the first step in enlarging the election—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The time for private members business having now expired, we will revert to the business that was interrupted at five o'clock.

#### WAYS AND MEANS

The house in committee of ways and means, Mr. Paul in the chair.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. House in committee of ways and means. It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 8.00 p.m.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Chairman, I listened to a C.B.C. commentator shortly after six o'clock during the dinner hour and he referred to the American press gallery that is attached to the White House being as nervous as expectant fathers outside the maternity ward in a hospital. I am sure that our press gallery is not quite in that situation, but I am quite convinced that whatever still small voices may be raised here tonight with respect to the economic affairs of Canada will be somewhat dwarfed by the headlines that may appear in the press tomorrow following the statement which has been made by the President of the United States. However, be that as it may, I know it is our responsibility to go ahead with an analysis of the economic situation as we see it in this country at the moment and events of external affairs and foreign affairs can be analysed and dealt with at an appropriate time in this house.

When the committee rose at six o'clock I was dealing with the increase in bank loans and other indices of expanded credit in this country and I should like to proceed from there for the time being. Interest rates declined throughout 1961 up until the middle of 1962. The exchange emergency which developed in June was accompanied, however, by a sharp rise in interest rates. The increase was both a reflection of the emergency and a suitable response to help correct the situation. Since June the improvement in our foreign exchange reserves has been accompanied by declines in interest rates which have become marked in the past few

weeks. The Bank of Canada discount rate was reduced in two steps from the June '64 level of 6 per cent to 5 per cent. Yields on government of Canada bonds are now generally less than one-quarter of a point higher than they were a year ago.

A great source of satisfaction to all members of the house, I am sure, has been the stability of prices achieved in Canada over the past few years. Relative price stability is one of the cornerstones upon which other economic objectives rest, particularly in the increasingly competitive world environment in which we have to earn our living. I should like the committee to note this, Mr. Chairman, that over the past year the increase in the consumer price index has been a modest 1½ per cent, reflecting some upward movement in the cost of services and food and virtually no change in all other categories of goods.

**Mr. Pearson:** If the hon. gentleman will forgive me, before he proceeds further I wonder whether he would ask for permission to revert to motions, if the house so desires, so that I might ask the Prime Minister if he has a statement to make in respect of the very important development that has occurred this evening in the announcement by the President of the United States. I only do this, Mr. Chairman, after having consulted with the other side of the house.

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Chairman, I will move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again later this day.

Progress reported.

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### CUBA—STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER FOLLOWING TELEVISION BROADCAST BY PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask leave of the house to revert to motions at this stage.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul):** Is it agreed that the house shall revert to motions?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition called me a few moments ago and suggested that it might be appropriate if something were said at this time with regard to the speech just delivered on television by the President of the United States. Naturally it is impossible to say much. The speech was a sombre and challenging one.

The president pointed out that on the island of Cuba preparations were being made, and had already been advanced, for the

construction of bases for the launching of offensive weapons in the form of I.R.B.M.'s and that this constitutes a threat to most of the cities of North America including our major cities in Canada. The reason that I agreed to the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition was to ask Canadians as well as free men everywhere in the world not to panic at this time. This is a time for calmness. It is a time for the banishment of these things that sometimes separate us. Above all, it is a time when each of us must endeavour to do his part to assure the preservation of peace not only in this hemisphere but everywhere in the world. The existence of these bases or launching pads is not defensive but offensive. The determination of Canadians will be that the United Nations should be charged at the earliest possible moment with this serious problem.

The president has stated that the matter will be brought before the security council at once and, whatever the reactions of the U.S.S.R. are to the statements made, by President Kennedy, I think what people all over the world want tonight and will want is a full and complete understanding of what is taking place in Cuba. What can be done? Naturally, there has been little time to give consideration to positive action that might be taken. But I suggest that if there is a desire on the part of the U.S.S.R. to have the facts, if a group of nations, perhaps the eight nations comprising the unaligned members of the 18 nation disarmament committee, be given the opportunity of making an on-site inspection in Cuba to ascertain what the facts are, a major step forward would be taken.

This is the only suggestion I have at this moment; but it would provide an objective answer to what is going on in Cuba. As late as a week ago, the U.S.S.R. contended that its activities in Cuba were entirely of a defensive nature, and that the hundreds, if not thousands, of citizens of the U.S.S.R., mechanics, technicians and the like, were simply in Cuba for defensive purposes. As to the presence of these offensive weapons, the only sure way that the world can secure the facts would be through an independent inspection.

I should like to hear the views of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) on this, and the leaders of the other parties, for in times like these the divisions between us always diminish. Any suggestion that can be made that will bring about an alleviation or a diminution of the obvious tensions that must grip men and women all over the world tonight, will be helpful. Our duty, as I see it, is not to fan the flames of fear but to do our part to bring about relief from the tensions, the great tensions, of the hour.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Canada has taken a strong stand throughout the years on behalf of peace. Canada knows the meaning of war. Canadians want peace, as do all free men in all parts of the world. My prayer this evening is that those who have the responsibility of statesmanship will always have in mind the need for doing everything that can be done to assure peace.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I think the house will be grateful to the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) for providing, as head of the government, an opportunity for a statement and for the statement itself. I am sure that anyone who listened to the president's broadcast must agree with the Prime Minister when he referred to it as a sombre, serious statement. It was only a short time ago that the president was able to reassure the people of his own country, and the people of other countries, that the action taken by the Soviet union in Cuba, while a cause for anxiety, was not to be interpreted at that time as the transformation of Cuba into an offensive base, which would have been a cause for even more anxiety. Therefore, when the president had to announce this evening that he was wrong in that surmise, that he had been misinformed and deceived, and that the information at his disposal now was to the effect that this island so close to the shores of the United States was being turned into an offensive nuclear missile base. That indeed was a shock not only to the citizens of the United States but to Canadians and to the citizens of every free country.

Surely the thing now, Mr. Speaker, is to prevent that shock from resulting in either a feeling of despair and helplessness on the one hand or panic on the other. I think we can take comfort, and the Prime Minister mentioned this, out of the fact that the President of the United States has properly indicated that this matter is going to be brought before the United Nations security council and the organization of American states, I think it is important, as the Prime Minister has indicated, that these international organizations should be used for the purpose of verifying what is going on. If that can be done, it will be a source of reassurance to all people in the world as to the seriousness of the situation and the necessity of doing something about it.

Perhaps it would be possible for Canada to take part in the discussions that will be held before the organization of American states because the president referred to them as western hemisphere discussions. While we are not a member of that organization, this would be a suitable occasion for Canada to participate in this particular meeting, if that can be

done. The participation at the U.N.

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Mr. R. Speaker, I express my group's gratitude by the President listened to the United and our have been certainly is a sense respect in loving courage of the President

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, October 23, 1962

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

U.S.-CUBA—FURTHER STATEMENT BY  
PRIME MINISTER

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with further reference to the question that was dealt with last evening, there is not a great deal I can add to the statement I made at that time. As yet there have been no confrontations at sea and no counter moves elsewhere in the world, although I would not want my words to be taken as in any way minimizing the seriousness of the situation.

All shades of political opinion in this house have welcomed the decision of the United States to take the matter to the security council of the United Nations. A meeting of the security council is scheduled for this afternoon, I believe at four o'clock, having been postponed this morning to permit the Cuban foreign minister to be present during the deliberations.

At that meeting the United States will call for an end to the action which the Soviet union has taken to convert Cuba into a base for nuclear missiles and other offensive weapons which threaten the security of the western hemisphere. As the Soviet union is a permanent member of the security council there is every likelihood that the resolution which the United States will be introducing will be vetoed. The issue will then likely be carried to the floor of the general assembly.

In connection with the suggestion I made last evening that a group of nations might be given the opportunity of making an on-site inspection in Cuba, lest there be any doubt about my meaning in that connection, I was not, of course, casting any doubts on the facts of the situation as outlined by the President of the United States in his television address. The government had been informed of and it believes that there is ample evidence that bases and equipment for the launching of offensive weapons have been constructed in Cuba and exist in sufficient quantities to threaten the security of this hemisphere.

The purpose I had in mind in suggesting a United Nations on-site inspection was to be ready to put in motion steps which could be taken in the United Nations general assembly in the event of a Soviet veto, or if the Soviet

union denies the existence in Cuba of offensive ballistic missile bases. The suggestion I made was not intended to compete with any proposal of the United States that might be placed before the assembly, but rather to supplement it by providing a way in which the United Nations could begin the heavy task of exercising its primary responsibility in respect of the maintenance of international peace and security. Further moves if any will have to depend on the way the situation develops.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the government has been asked by the United States for its co-operation and assistance in the plans announced for the quarantine of Cuba and, if so, what was the nature of that request.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I take it that what the hon. gentleman has in mind is the shipping control that is to be put into effect. There has been no request from the United States government for Canadian co-operation in this connection.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I follow up that question to the Prime Minister and ask whether the government has been informed of any official reaction on the part of the Soviet union to the quarantine of shipping by the United States and, if so, what that official reaction has been.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): May I ask a supplementary question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Was the government of Canada consulted or informed prior to President Kennedy's statement?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the government of Canada was informed.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. With respect to the crisis which has developed, have any direct steps been taken by the Canadian government, other than the withdrawing of landing and transit facilities

28 Oct 1962  
Cuban Missiles.

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## JFK Asked Canada to Act in Dark In '62 Cuba Crisis, Diefenbaker Says

OTTAWA, Oct. 27 (AP) — Prime Minister John Diefenbaker said today President Kennedy on Oct. 22, 1962, asked him to declare a national emergency without consulting him before and on the Cuban missile crisis.

The former prime minister said he received a telephone call from the President about that day, some five days before Kennedy went to Moscow to disclose the existence of Soviet missiles in Cuba and the American blockade.

"I think the words used by the President were 'to put our whole forces on alert,'" Diefenbaker said in an interview. "I interpreted that to mean a national emergency. There was no consultation whatsoever."

Since May, 1958, Canada and the United States had been partners in North American Air Defense Command. Diefenbaker said Kennedy wanted him to declare a national emergency in Canada that very afternoon—Oct. 22, 1962, adding: "He thought that what he wanted Canada to do we would do."

Canada did not officially put its NORAD forces on alert until 36 hours after the Cuban missile crisis became public knowledge.

### Canada's Martin Hints Of Approach to U.S.

OTTAWA, Oct. 27 (AP) — Foreign Secretary Lester B. Pearson today indicated that Canada plans to approach the United States to end

the bombing of North Vietnam. He declined to give details.

Martin answered "yes" to the Commons when asked whether Canada is taking steps to make "appropriate approaches" to Washington about recent intense bombing.

### Typhoon Nears Japan

Reuters

TOKYO, Oct. 27 — Typhoon Dinah packing winds of 150 miles per hour was approaching the Japanese Pacific coast and expected to reach a peak 150 miles south of Tokyo at 3 p.m. (2 a.m. EDT) Saturday, U.S. military weathermen reported today.

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